

NOTES

A Record Size (480 mm.) John Dory (*Zenopsis ocellatus*) with Notes on Its Distribution in Our North and Middle Atlantic Waters.

—At the annual meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History in 1858, Dr. Storer described the first American species of John Dory, naming it *Zeus ocellatus*. Subsequent changes in the nomenclature have altered this name to *Zenopsis ocellatus*. This fish, six inches long, was found at Provincetown, Mass., and from that time until 1912, no further records are known to the author. On this latter date (1912) Mr. J. T. Nichols, of the American Museum of Natural History, saw half a dozen taken by a trawler off New York, on the outer part of the continental shelf in 52 to 86 fathoms.

Bigelow and Welch in their "Fishes of the Gulf of Maine," 1924,¹ mention only these two occurrences of the species and state that "the continental shelf is presumably its normal habitat." The next published record for *Zenopsis ocellatus* was in 1932 when Mr. J. C. Pearson, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries,² reported a specimen taken in a trawl net during the winter of 1930-31 in 20 to 60 fathoms about east of Bodie Island, N. C.

During the winters of 1932-33 and 1935-36, while stationed at Norfolk, Va., making observations of the winter trawl fishery activities, I collected a total of about 40 specimens up to ten inches in length, but which were not saved, because of lack of preserving materials. They were all taken in trawl nets along the continental slope, from Okracoke Inlet, N. C., to Cape May, N. J., in 20 to 75 fathoms. In the intervening years when I was not

¹ *Bulletin of the U. S. Bur. of Fish.* Vol. XL, 1924, Pt. 1.

² Winter trawl fishery off the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. J. C. Pearson. *U. S. Bur. of Fish. Investigational Repts.*, No. 10. Vol. 1, 1932.

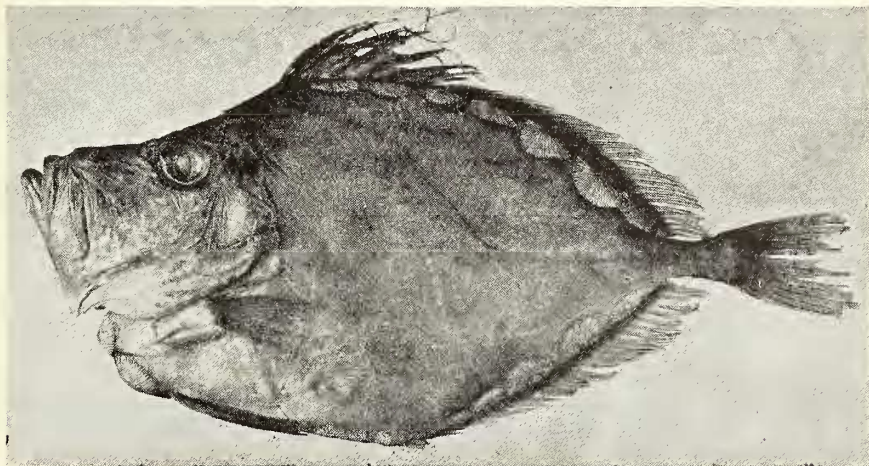


Photo by Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.

Text-figure 1.

Zenopsis ocellatus. Record size John Dory, 480 mm.